

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a measuring point in time ( $t_M$ ), at which a measured value is to be produced by a field device of process automation technology, comprising the steps of:

communicating measured values of the field device at certain communication points in time ( $t_k$ ) via a field bus following a query from a central control unit for measured values of the field device;

~~at least approximately determining a following communication point in time ( $t_i$ ) from at least one time span (A) between two preceding communication points in time ( $t_k, t'_k$ ) and a preceding communication point in time ( $t''_k$ ), which is either one of said two preceding communication points in time ( $t_k, t'_k$ ) or which is another communication point in time ( $t''_k$ ); at least two communication points in time ( $t_k, t'_k$ ); and~~

determining the measuring point in time ( $t_M$ ) on the basis of said approximately determined following communication point in time ( $t_i$ ); wherein:

the point in time of measurement ( $t_M$ ) should, in such case, be as shortly as possible before the approximately determined communication point in time ( $t_i$ ) and, consequently, before the reporting of the measured value such that said determined measuring point in time ( $t_M$ ) lies as shortly as possible before said approximately determined following communication point in time ( $t_F$ ).

9. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein:

the measurement point in time ( $t_M$ ) is also communicated with the measured value.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of:

calculating at least two time spans ( $A_1, A_2$ ) between, in each case, at least two preceding communication points in time ( $t_{K1}, t'_{K1}, t_{K2}, t'_{K2}$ );

forming an average value ( $M$ ) from the time spans ( $A_1, A_2$ ); and

~~approximating~~ approximately determining the following communication point in time ( $t_f$ ) starting from the average value ( $M$ ) and a preceding communication point in time ( $t''_K$ ).

Claims 12 - 13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A field device~~ An apparatus for determining a ~~measuring point in time ( $t_M$ )~~ An apparatus for determining a measured point in time ( $t_M$ ), comprising:

a control unit;

at least one field bus communication unit, which, in the case of a query from said control unit, communicates at least one measured value; and

at least one output/control unit, which controls the measuring point in time ( $t_M$ ) of said field device, wherein:

said at least one field bus communication unit transmits ~~at least~~ the communication point in time ( $t_K$ ) to said output/control unit;

said output/control unit approximately determines a following communication point in time ( $t_f$ ) from at least one time span ( $A$ ) between two preceding communication points in time ( $t_K, t'_K$ ) and a preceding communication point in time ( $t''_K$ ) which is either one of said two preceding points in time ( $t_K, t'$ )

or which is another communication point in time ( $t''_K$ ); and

said output/control unit determines the measuring point in time ( $t_M$ ) on the basis of said approximately determined following communication point in time ( $t_f$ ) such that said determined measuring point in time ( $t_M$ ) lies as shortly as possible before the approximately determined following communication point in time ( $t_f$ ).